

Lewis, Kim

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Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2008 3:22 PM  
To: Lewis, Kim  
Cc: Kevin M. Farrell  
Subject: US Patent Application No. 10/626,040; Attorney Docket No. 0156-2008US01

Examiner Lewis,

Thank you again for your time today with regard to discussing proposed claims amendments in US Patent Application No. 10/626,040 entitled "Device for Laceration or Incision Closure." Below are our two proposed options for amending the independent claims to overcome the cited prior art, US Patent No. 6,329,564 ("Lebner '564"). Thank you again for your time in considering our proposed claims amendments.

Best regards,  
Katherine Wrobel

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Proposed option 1 for independent claim 1 (support for application to joint area, for example, at paragraph [0031] of specification):

6/18/08

- 1) (Currently amended) A two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
  - a) a first component comprising a first adhesive-backed anchoring member produced from an elastic polymeric material capable of secured attachment to a flexible joint area thereby providing improved adhesion relative to an otherwise identical first component produced from an inelastic material while maintaining the physical relationship between wound edges in an applied device for a period of time sufficient for the laceration or incision to heal naturally;
  - b) one or more first connecting members, produced from a substantially inelastic material, attached to the first adhesive-backed anchoring member and extending from one edge thereof in a first direction;
  - c) a second component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member produced from an elastic polymeric material capable of secured attachment to a flexible joint area thereby providing improved adhesion relative to an otherwise identical second component produced from an inelastic material while maintaining the physical relationship between wound edges in an applied device for the period of time sufficient for the laceration or incision to heal;
  - d) one or more second connecting members, produced from a substantially inelastic material, attached to the second adhesive-backed anchoring member and extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction;
  - e) means for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second anchoring member and means for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first anchoring member, the attachment of the connecting members to the anchoring members forming attached and bridging portions of the one or more connecting members, the attached portions being attached to an anchoring member, and the bridging portions spanning the over-laceration area between the first and second anchoring members.

#### Proposed option 2 for independent claim 1:

- 1) (Currently amended) A two-component device for closing a laceration or incision, comprising:
  - a) a first component comprising a first adhesive-backed anchoring member produced from an

- elastic polymeric material not reinforced with an inelastic structural component thereby providing improved adhesion relative to an otherwise identical first component produced from an inelastic material while maintaining the physical relationship between wound edges in an applied device for a period of time sufficient for the laceration or incision to heal naturally;
- b) one or more first connecting members, produced from a substantially inelastic material, attached to the first adhesive-backed anchoring member and extending from one edge thereof in a first direction;
  - c) a second component comprising a second adhesive-backed anchoring member produced from an elastic polymeric material not reinforced with an inelastic structural component thereby providing improved adhesion relative to an otherwise identical second component produced from an inelastic material while maintaining the physical relationship between wound edges in an applied device for the period of time sufficient for the laceration or incision to heal;
  - d) one or more second connecting members, produced from a substantially inelastic material, attached to the second adhesive-backed anchoring member and extending from one edge thereof in a second direction generally opposite to the first direction;
  - e) means for attaching the one or more first connecting members to the second anchoring member and means for attaching the one or more second connecting members to the first anchoring member, the attachment of the connecting members to the anchoring members forming attached and bridging portions of the one or more connecting members, the attached portions being attached to an anchoring member, and the bridging portions spanning the over-laceration area between the first and second anchoring members.